

# **YOUR HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

A Guide  
to the  
Rhode Island  
Department of Health

*Donald L. Carcieri*  
*Governor*  
*David R. Gifford, MD, MPH*  
*Acting Director of Health*

*~~ Safe and Healthy Lives in  
Safe and Healthy Communities ~~*

[www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)

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Dear Rhode Islander:

For most of us, changes in our family life, work and health bring both challenges and opportunities. I certainly feel that way. So when Governor Carcieri offered to nominate me as the new Director of Health, I thought long and hard about the challenges and then leapt at the opportunity.

A key challenge of public health is to focus on the entire population without losing sight of the individual. We sometimes characterize public health as using science to protect “all the people, all the time, everywhere.” Take clean, safe drinking water, for example. It touches every man, woman and child in every community, every day. At the same time, we can’t overlook the individual: the one that needs flu vaccine, or lives in a nursing home, or needs a license renewed to keep a job, or wants a birth certificate. Each need is important. This dual-focus of public health is like looking through bifocal glasses, useful both for up close and far away. Keeping the right balance is incredibly important and often incredibly difficult.

By most accounts we already do a pretty good job of this in RI! That’s why I approach the near-term future of public health here as an opportunity to build on current strengths and concentrate on improving our performance. It’s what I call “Doing Public Health Better.” “Doing better” involves looking at what we do now, deciding how we can improve it and then implementing change and evaluating our success. In era of increasing needs and limited resources, improving our performance may be the only way that we can meet the public’s expectations.

Looking forward I want to focus initially on four key areas for “doing public health better.”

- Health disparities acknowledge the differences for racial and ethnic minority populations on key measures of health, mortality, behavioral risks and access to health care in RI. Eliminating health disparities is a fundamental goal here and in the nation.
- Assuring the quality of nursing home care addresses the concerns of everyone with loved ones residing in a health care facility. Inspection and enforcement remain key, but preventing poor care through quality improvement strategies is preferable to detecting (and correcting) problems after they occur.
- Childhood obesity and lack of physical activity are symptoms of a state and national problem. In RI over 25% of children are overweight; only one-third engages in enough physical activity to meet health guidelines. The adverse effects on the population’s health represent a serious concern.
- More than ever, public health is called upon to respond to emerging infectious diseases (bird flu), natural disasters (hurricanes), mass casualty incidents (Station fire) and terrorism—especially terrorism involving diseases such as anthrax and smallpox. Emergency preparedness involves building on what we do every day to respond to emergency situations and protect the public’s health.

The tools for accomplishing these goals cut across many priority areas of public health, including prevention, customer service, information technology, and public health information. And we know that we can’t do this alone. Improving our performance will take partnership and collaboration with many community and professional groups throughout the state.

“Doing public health better” in these areas is a worthy objective for our state over the next several years. With your support and with the efforts of an excellent public health staff, we can work together to make Rhode Island a model for assuring safe and healthy lives in safe and healthy communities. It’s a challenge, and an opportunity, that’s important to us all.

Sincerely

David R. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Acting Director of Health

**Mission**

The primary mission of the Rhode Island Department of Health is to prevent disease and to protect and promote the health and safety of the people of Rhode Island.

**Vision**

All people in Rhode Island will have the opportunity to live a safe and healthy life in a safe and healthy community.

**History**

The State of Rhode Island has a long history of leadership and excellence in the field of public health. In 1854, Dr. Edwin Snow pioneered efforts to document and analyze a wave of cholera that attacked the citizens of Providence. Tracking the disease among his own patients, he devoted himself to tracing its source and preventing its recurrence.

Snow became the first Superintendent in 1856 when Providence established a permanent city health department. Twenty-two years later, a State Board of Health was formed with three mandates: preventing the spread of disease, collecting vital statistics, and implementing a sanitation program.

In 1883, Dr. Charles Value Chapin became Providence's Superintendent of Health. Dr. Chapin continued Dr. Snow's efforts, improving sanitation, advocating city sewer construction, establishing quarantine regulations, and identifying the source of a cholera outbreak in 1888.

Dr. Chapin instituted mandatory reporting of contagious disease cases such as scarlet fever and diphtheria. He was a leader in discouraging fumigation of houses as a disease prevention measure and established the nation's first contagious disease hospital, the Providence City Hospital, in 1910.

Today, the Rhode Island Department of Health is a diverse and interactive state agency with broad-ranging public health responsibilities. While communicable disease control, vital records, environmental health and other functions carry on the traditions established in Dr. Snow's era, newer and equally important functions of today's Health Department include minority health, chronic disease prevention, health promotion, injury control, public informational and many others.

In this decade following the Year 2000, the Health Department reemphasizes its commitment to health promotion and disease prevention: keeping Rhode Islanders healthy and active from birth through old age. **Your Health Department** is an introduction to the many programs and services working to serve you and your family in today's Department of Health.

**Office of the Director 401 222-2231****Health Information and Communication****Office of Health Communication**

The Office of Health Communication supports divisions and programs by integrating public health communication into HEALTH programs. The office develops communication strategies that informs individuals and communities about important health-related topics, policy, and services, and promotes health directed behavior among individuals and communities. The office communicates public health information through the news media, the Internet and other channels. The office acts as the key public health information liaison to local media representatives. The office coordinates and develops communication linkages with cities and towns, hospitals and other organizations for emergency preparedness. The office develops public information materials on emergency preparedness and risk communication.

Cannon Building, Room 103, 401-222-5086/5087

## **Health Library**

The Health Library, which is part of the office of Health Communication, provides services that meet the informational, educational, and research-related needs of the public health community. The Rhode Island Department of Health Library is open to the public. It provides authoritative and current health and medical related information in various formats (books, journals, databases, etc.) to Health Department employees and the general public.

Cannon Building, Room 103, 401-222-2068  
(hours are from 8:30 – 4:00 – but telephone ahead first)

## **Health Statistics**

Uses health data and statistical methods to identify health problems and health disparities in the state's population and to support health programs in planning, operations, and evaluation. Collects and disseminates information on health status and outcomes, health risks, health care utilization, and access to health care. Conducts the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, the Health Interview Survey, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, and the Youth Tobacco Survey. Administers the statewide Hospital Discharge Data System. Collaborates in interdepartmental public health initiatives with the Departments of Human Services, Education, Transportation, and Mental Health, Retardation, and Hospitals. Coordinates Geographic Information Systems within HEALTH.

Cannon Building, Room 407, 401-222-2550

## **Performance Measurement and Public Reporting**

Collects, analyzes and publicly reports data reflecting the performance of and health care quality provided at licensed health facilities (e.g. patient satisfaction, clinical outcomes) and certified health plans (finance, utilization review, consumer satisfaction, preventative health care services and access to care).

Cannon Building, Room 407, 401-222-4872

## **Minority Health**

Serves as a liaison to and monitors the health status of Rhode Island's racial and ethnic minority communities. Develops an annual Minority Health Status Report and Minority Health Plan. Funds Minority Health Promotion Centers. Identifies local and federal funding opportunities for minority health program development. Minority Health Advisory Committee.

Cannon Building, Room 407, 401-222-2901

## **Vital Records**

Responsible for maintaining the State's vital records system. Collects, analyzes and reports data pertaining to births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and other health-related statistics. Issues certified copies of vital records.

Cannon Building, Room 101, 401-222-2812

## **Worksite Health**

Administers Wellness Check<sup>2000</sup> a health risk appraisal designed and distributed by the Rhode Island Department of Health. Wellness Check<sup>2000</sup> is offered to employers in Rhode Island who want to effect lifestyle changes that lead to a safer and healthier workforce. This service is also offered to public and private school systems in the state. Works with the Worksite Wellness Council of RI, and the Wellness Councils of America (WELCOA), on a three-year worksite health promotion initiative, entitled "Well State".

Cannon Building, Room 407, 401-222-5112

## **Healthy Rhode Island 2010**

Sets health objectives for Rhode Island within the ten leading indicators: physical activity, overweight and obesity, tobacco use, substance abuse, responsible sexual behavior, mental health, injury and violence, environmental quality, immunization, and access to health care. Rallies community support for Healthy People objectives. Measures progress toward objectives. Elimination of health disparities is an overarching goal.

## **Legal Services**

### **Legal Services**

Provides legal services to the Director and staff of the Department, represents the Department at all administrative hearings, and assists in the preparation of the departmental legislative packet composed of changes in the General Laws.

Cannon Building, Room 404, 222-2137

## **Management Services**

Provides general management support to the Department of Health and consists of five units: Budget and Finance, Human Resources, Information Systems, and Vital Records.

Cannon Building, Room 402, 401-222-2228

### **Budget and Finance**

Oversees annual budget preparation and financial controls including monitoring, forecasting, analysis, and planning. Administers federal grants management including the draw down of federal funds and collection and processing of all revenue received by the Department.

Cannon Building, Room 402, 401-222-2228

### **Human Resources**

Coordinates human resource activities within the Department. Provides staff support to the various divisions and offices that comprise the Department of Health. Oversees personnel management, payroll, and labor relations.

Cannon Building, Room 402, 401-222-2265

### **Information Systems**

Coordinates the planning and implementation of information processing systems in order to provide the Director of Health and other staff with data necessary for administrative decision-making. Facilitates the use of computers within the Department to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

Cannon Building, Room 402, 401-222-2228

### **Purchasing and Support Services**

Provides services in three areas: Purchasing, Print Shop, and Buildings & Grounds. Purchasing is responsible for the overall management of all purchasing functions in the Department, including the review, approval, and processing of all contracts, purchase requisitions, payments, and related transactions. Purchasing also maintains a computerized billing system and paper files of transactions. The Print Shop provides a central printing facility and central mailroom for the Department. Buildings and Grounds is responsible for coordinating all physical plant issues relating to the Cannon and Chapin Buildings including the maintenance of these buildings, the grounds, and security. Acts as the liaison with the Department of Administration regarding the upkeep of the two buildings.

Cannon Building, Room 402, 401-222-2228

## **Division of Disease Prevention and Control (401) 222-1171**

Works to increase the span of healthy life for all Rhode Islanders by developing and advocating policies for prevention, by promoting healthy lifestyles and by improving access to effective primary care, by monitoring infectious disease rates, by preventing infectious diseases in the community, and by controlling outbreaks of infectious disease.

### **The Office of HIV & AIDS/ Viral Hepatitis Program**

- Sponsors anonymous and confidential HIV testing and counseling services at numerous area sites throughout the state.

- Provides partner counseling and referral services to area health care professionals.
- Provides funding for HIV health education, public information, and harm reduction to community based programs and extensively evaluates these programs.
- Facilitates strategies that foster community involvement in prevention planning through the HIV Prevention Community Planning Group.
- Conducts a variety of training, technical assistance, and leadership development workshops for prevention professionals through the REACH capacity building programs. Conducts ongoing trainings for HIV Counseling, Testing and Referral and provider education workshops and seminars
- Monitors and Implements provision of care programs for HIV treatment agencies and/or provides direct services to people living with HIV: including the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, the home and community based care program, the dental program, the emergency relief program, the HIV case management program, the drug adherence program, and the HIV positive prevention program
- Offers a harm reduction program to injecting drug users that includes syringe exchange.
- Works with multi-state agencies and community based organizations to assure that HIV prevention efforts reach high-risk populations and that treatment for HIV positive people is accessible and available.
- Provides client materials, referrals and coordination of care to those infected with Hepatitis C
- Coordinates the Viral Hepatitis Advisory Group, Provision of Care Committee, Bridge Committee - "Prevention and Care," RI Community Planning Group for HIV Prevention, the ENCORE Steering Committee, the REACH Steering Committee, The HIV Partners in Care Committee, the HIV Vendors' Group and the HIV/AIDS Minority Group
- Monitors the incidence of HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis A/B/C disease.
- **Frequent Publications:** *Spotlight on HIV & AIDS in the Ocean State*, The HIV & AIDS Epidemiologic Profile, The Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan, The Hepatitis Strategic Plan (in production)

Cannon Building, Room 106, 401-222-2320, 401-222-2577

### **Communicable Diseases**

Responsible for the detection, control, and prevention of communicable diseases. Monitors and conducts surveillance for the incidence of various reportable diseases, including meningitis, hepatitis, foodborne diseases, Lyme disease, West Nile Virus, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases. Ongoing surveillance activities are also aimed at monitoring trends in emerging infections. Educates the public about these diseases and how to prevent them; increases access to clinical services for infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases. Administers the Rabies Control Program and works to control disease outbreaks. Also responsible for developing the capability to effectively mount an epidemiological response to a bioterrorism event. Cannon Building, Room 106, 401-222-2577

### **Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention**

Works with community partners to promote healthy lifestyles (such as healthy eating and physical activity), reduce health risk behaviors, including those related to tobacco, unintentional injuries, violence and support people with chronic diseases (arthritis and asthma) lead productive lives with minimal limits from their conditions. . This approach is designed to prevent health problems before they occur, or to reduce their impact. Activities focus on school, community, and worksites and include media, policy, and program strategies. Information about programs is available on the HEALTH website. Programs include:

- Arthritis Action Program 401-222-1383
  - Asthma Control Program 401-222-4040
  - Safe Rhode Island 401-222-7627  
(Injury and Violence Prevention)
  - SafeKids 401-222-4420
  - Initiative for a Healthy Weight 401-222-1087  
(Nutrition and Physical Activity)
  - Tobacco Control and Cessation 401-222-6054
- Cannon Building, Room 408 and 409,  
401-277-3442, 401-222-3293, 401-222-1171

### **Primary Care**

Works to improve the availability of high quality, culturally competent primary and preventive care for all Rhode Islanders. Emphasizes on vulnerable populations by addressing barriers to primary care, increasing the supply of primary care providers in the state (particularly in underserved areas), strengthening the link between state government, primary care training programs, the primary care community and other constituencies; and assessing primary medical care and dental care capacity statewide. Administers the

State Loan Repayment Program, the National Health Services Corps' SEARCH Program (a primary care experience in underserved areas for health professionals in training), the Women's Cancer Screening Program, the State Cancer Registry, the Diabetes Program, and the Rural Health Program. Also works closely with the community-based health centers and other community-based programs to identify and address issues facing the medically underserved.

Cannon Building, Room 408, 401-222-1171

## **Family Health**

Cannon Building Room 302. 401-222-2312

For Consumer Questions call the Family Health Information Line 1-800-942-7434

Family Health strives to preserve, protect and promote the health and development of children and youth and their families with a goal of reducing and preventing diseases and disabilities. It develops supports and evaluates systems of care for community based programs that address the health and development of children and their families investing in information, education, public engagement, community partnership development and policy and program planning which focuses on prevention. Parent consultants are involved in all aspects of the Family Health activities.

### **Family Health Information Line**

1-800-942-7434

The Family Health Information Line is a toll-free telephone information resource for families. English and Spanish speaking staff provides information about programs and services to improve the health of children and families. Families are referred to appropriate community resources. The Information Line is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Calls received on evenings and weekends are returned on the next business day.

### **Policy and Communication**

Laurie Petrone, Chief

Participates in the development of division-wide and departmental health communication campaigns. Campaign work includes conducting formative research among target audiences, coordinating and implementing campaign strategies, evaluating those strategies, and public relations. The unit also manages the Family Health Information Line. As an integral part of the unit's infrastructure for public education, the distribution center helps develop and maintain a department-wide mailing database and disseminates educational materials to consumers as well as health and social service providers. The unit's policy work consists of analyzing national and state level policies and recommending responses to proposed policies.

### **Data and Evaluation**

Sam-Viner-Brown, Chief

Conducts ongoing surveillance and assessment activities to determine health status of pregnant women, children and their families in Rhode Island. Specifically, the Unit conducts needs assessments of maternal and child health at both the state and community level; monitors progress towards national and state performance measures; works with Family Health programs to meet their analytical, epidemiological and evaluation needs; collaborates with community partners around assessment and assurance issues; provides data to community organizations, media and general public; and disseminates data in reports and presentations.

### **Office for Family Youth and School Success**

Jan Shedd, Chief

Develops, leads and manages initiatives that address early childhood development and school readiness. Monitors health status and assesses service and system needs of the population. Uses community partnerships to conduct referrals and assessments for families in need of information and resources. Works with State departments, communities, and their schools to assure access to effective health and psycho-social services that build individual and family strengths and resiliency and protect school age children from poor health outcomes associated with unhealthy physical and cultural environments and unhealthy behaviors. Provides young women and men with access to reproductive health services that give them opportunities to identify and address health risks.

### **Office for Families Raising Children with Special Needs**

Deb Garneau, Chief



Administers and directs programs to address the needs of children who have or are at risk for significant chronic health and developmental problems. Programs include: Family Outreach Program, a nursing home visiting program for new parents; Early Intervention, provides assessment and intervention for infants and toddlers with developmental challenges; Pediatric Specialty Services, provides enhancements to specialty services and primary care for children with special needs; Disability & Health, promotes health and wellness for people with disabilities, including traumatic brain injury surveillance. Offers a statewide family-centered initiative including training for parents and professionals, parent-led support services, technical assistance and educational resources concerning families raising children with special health care needs.

#### **Office of Women, Infants, and Children**

Becky Bessette, Chief

Administers the WIC Program for pregnant, postpartum women and young children who have a nutritional risk and meet income guidelines. Services include assessment of nutritional status, provision of nutritious food, nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and assistance in securing referrals to other services. Collects and evaluates data and develops policies and strategies to address need and integrate services within the health care system. Assures access, quality, and effectiveness in WIC services. Administers the Farmers Market Nutrition Program and provides vouchers for locally grown product to WIC participants. Administers the Immunization Program assuring access to universally free vaccines for RI children.

#### **Children's Preventive Services**

Amy Zimmerman, Chief

Administers the Newborn Screening Program (developmental risk assessment, bloodspot and hearing), Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, and KIDSNET an integrated child health information system. Assures preventive services for all children in Rhode Island, including newborn developmental, hearing and metabolic screenings; lead screening; and immunizations administered, links childhood program databases to each other and to health care providers (KIDSNET). Identifies children behind in preventive services and refers to the Family Outreach Program which provides family support and follow up through community-based Home Visiting Networks, in collaboration with providers.

### **Environmental Health**

Protects and promotes environmental health for all Rhode Island residents.  
Cannon Building, Room 209, 401-222-3118

#### **Bioterrorism Preparedness**

Coordinates the activities of multiple offices within the Department of Health to develop plans, prepare for, and react to acts of biological terrorism. Develops working relationships with communities, public and private organizations, and State and Federal partners, in order to prepare and execute these plans. Develop statewide systems and improve the infrastructure so as to minimize the effect of a bioterrorist event. Utilize the same methodologies and generally deal with the same partners in order to plan for other public health emergencies.

Cannon Building, Room 209, 401-222-3118

#### **Drinking Water Quality**

Protects the public health by assuring that public drinking water supplies comply with the standards of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Identifies and controls sources of contamination threatening the safety of public drinking water by an extensive monitoring and surveying program. Provides engineering review, the approval and on-site supervision of projects to improve public water system infrastructure through a state revolving loan fund. Ensures that public swimming pools are constructed and operated in a safe and sanitary manner. Ensures the safety of manufactured ice and bottled water. Monitors private wells located in the vicinity of hazardous waste sites, alerts homeowners of contamination levels found, and counsels and assists homeowners who have contaminated well water.

Cannon Building, Room 209, 401-222-6867

#### **Environmental Health Risk Assessment**

Assesses the health risks of environmental and occupational hazards, contaminants, and exposures.

Enhances the level of knowledge and the ability to identify and respond to patient concerns regarding these hazards among Rhode Island primary health care providers. Works with the public, local, state, federal officials and agencies, professionals, and the media to expedite information exchange, risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication of environmental and occupational hazards.

Cannon Building, Room 209, 401-222-3424

### **Food Protection**

Protects and promotes health and prevents disease by assuring the safety and quality of the food supply through inspection, plan review and approval of food establishments, and investigation of complaints and food borne disease outbreaks. Provides 24-hour emergency coverage for fires, accidents and natural disasters involving food products. Responsible for food labeling; protection against consumer fraud related to food; response to certain environmental complaints; inspections of school and recreational facilities; bathing area sampling; developing assisted living food standard; and certification of food managers.

Canon Building, Room 203, 401-222-2750

### **Occupational and Radiological Health**

Protects Rhode Islanders from health and safety dangers at the worksite, radon and asbestos exposure, and from radiation hazards. Conducts inspections of X-ray equipment at worksites and health facilities and oversees an enforcement program for by-product radioactive materials. Responsible for enforcing the State's "asbestos abatement" law to protect the general public and construction workers from harmful exposure to asbestos fibers. Offers free safety and health consultation services to employers and educational programs for employees. Administers a comprehensive program for the assessment and mitigation of radon in homes, schools and public buildings. Manages the environmental lead program.

Cannon Building, Room 206, 401-222-2438

(Asbestos Control Program: 401-222-3601)

## **Health Services Regulation (401) 222-6015**

Health Services Regulation licenses, certifies and enforces regulations relating to health care professionals, health care facilities, managed care organizations and health systems development. The Division is organized by responsibilities for licensure, oversight and regulatory functions by category of licensure.

- Health Professionals Regulation
- Facilities Regulation
- Managed Care Regulation
- Health Systems Development

Additionally, the Office of Regulations, a key support function for the entire Department, provides for the promulgation of regulations, and is located within Health Services Regulation.

Cannon Building, Room 410, 401-222-1600

### **Facilities Regulation**

The Office of Facilities Regulation is responsible for insuring that all state licensed and federally certified health care facilities or providers meet the applicable conditions and regulations of the law. That compliance is formally recognized through the licensure and certification process, which involves survey visits and other inspections for continuing compliance. Deficiencies cited during inspections, which are not corrected, may result in enforcement actions against the facility. Survey data is reported, compiled, and analyzed as required. Also, complaints from any source are investigated and, if substantiated, appropriate compliance action is initiated. In-service training is conducted for facility staff as needed. Facility plans (physical plant and programs) are analyzed for Certificate of Need purposes. New state laws, amendments, and regulations are drafted and promulgated as appropriate. All of the above survey and inspection activities involve on-site observations, record reviews and interviews.

Cannon Building, Room 306, 401-222-2566

Hotline for Home Health 1-800-228-2716

After Hours Emergency 401-272-5952

## **Health Professionals Regulation**

The Office of Health Professionals Regulation oversees the licensure, certification, registration and discipline of more than 70,000 individuals in 65 health occupations and 2,600 facilities. The office also oversees the administrative and regulatory functions of 35 licensing Boards comprising 325 members representing the various professions and consumers. Health Professionals Regulation includes the following Boards and programs:

**Athletic Trainers, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Barbers, Hairdressers, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2511**  
**Chiropractors, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Clinical and Independent Social Workers, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Clinical Laboratory Science Practitioners, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Dentistry, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2151**  
**Dietitian/Nutritionist, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Doctor of Acupuncture, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Electrologists, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Emergency Medical Services, Cannon Building Room 105, 401-222-2401**  
**Funeral Director/Embalmer, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Hearing Aid Dealers, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Interpreters for the Deaf, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Massage Therapist, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Medical Licensure and Discipline, Cannon Building Room 205, 401-222-3855**  
**Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapist, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Midwives, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Nursing Assistants, Cannon Building Room 105, 401 222-5888**  
**Nursing Home Administrators, Cannon Building Room 105, 401-222-5888**  
**Occupational Therapy, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Optometrists, Opticians, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Pharmacy, Cannon Building Room 205, 401-222-2837**  
**Physical Therapists, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Physician Assistants, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Podiatrists, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Registered and Practical Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Anesthetists, Cannon Building Room 105, 401-222-5700**  
**Prosthetist, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Psychologists, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Radiographer, Nuclear Medicine Technologist, Radiation Therapist, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Sanitarians, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Speech and Language Pathology, Audiology, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Tattoo Artists, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**

## **Managed Care Regulation**

The Office of Managed Care Regulation is responsible for insuring that all certified Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO), Utilization Review Agencies (UR) and Health Plans meet the conditions and regulations of the applicable Rhode Island General laws. Survey data is reported, compiled, and analyzed as required. Also, complaints from any source are investigated and, if substantiated, appropriate action is initiated. Staff conducts on-site surveys and inspections; administers certification processes and investigates complaints to determine that managed care organizations meet the conditions of state laws, rules, and regulations.

Cannon Building Room 410, 401-222-6015

## **Health Systems Development**

The Office of Health Systems Development administers the state's "certificate of need" (C.O.N.) program designed to prevent unnecessary duplication of expensive medical services and equipment. Reviews proposed hospital conversions (HCA), proposed changes in ownership of existing health care facilities (CEC), and requests for initial health facility licensure (IL). Staffs the state's Health Services Council and advises the Director of Health on all the above matters.

Cannon Building, Room 407, 401-222-2788

## **Laboratories 401-222-5600**

### **Laboratories**

Biological Sciences Section - provides a broad spectrum of serological and microbiological analyses for the diagnosis and control of infectious diseases; provides microbiological analyses to ensure the wholesomeness of food and quality of water.

Environmental Sciences Section - provides chemical and hematological analyses for metabolic diseases of the newborn, childhood lead poisoning, and hemoglobinopathies; provides physical and chemical analyses of foods to ensure their wholesomeness, purity and labeling; provides comprehensive laboratory services to support most of the air pollution, water pollution, and drinking water supply programs of the state.

Forensic Sciences Section - performs postmortem toxicological analysis for the Office of the State Medical Examiner, in cases of homicide, suicide, drug overdose, accidental death, etc.; examines evidence submitted by state and municipal law enforcement agencies in drug-related cases, sexual assault, and other violent crimes, driving under the influence, etc; and performs tests for the Department of Business Regulation.

Chapin Building, 401-222-5600

### **Central Services Section**

Provides automated data systems, specimen handling, and sample receipt, data entry, purchasing, billing, clerical and telephone support to the laboratories.

Charles V. Chapin Laboratory Building, 401-222-5600  
50 Orms Street  
Providence, RI 0290

## **State Medical Examiner 401-222-5500**

Protects the citizens of Rhode Island by conducting medico legal death investigations in cases of sudden, unexpected death in the community and death when injury is involved. The Medical Examiner determines the cause of death and the manner of death (homicide, suicide, accident, natural). The results are used to complete the death certificate, assist the criminal justice system, and identify public health hazards and dangerous practices. This information and data is also used to design programs and intervention methods aimed at preventing such deaths in the future. The Office maintains a 24-hour hotline utilized by law enforcement agencies and health care providers in the reporting of deaths to the Office.

Chapin Building, First Floor, 401-222-5500

## **Public Health Coalitions**

### **Tobacco Prevention and Control**

The Department of Health Tobacco Control program works to prevent tobacco use. The program also works with community groups to implement clean indoor air policies in workplaces, restaurants and other public places and to inform the public about the dangers of secondhand smoke. For more information contact Betty Harvey at 401-222-3293.

### **Healthy Schools! Healthy Kids!**

The Department of Health partners with the Department of Education to develop and coordinate comprehensive school health programs to prevent important health problems and improve educational outcomes. Contact Beatriz Perez at (401) 222-1394 ext. 147.

### **Rhode Island Childhood Lead Poisoning Control Program**

The Department of Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Control Program, in conjunction with the state's health care providers and health insurers, work to ensure that all Rhode Island children under six have been screened for lead poisoning in accordance with the state's existing universal screening law. For more information about lead poisoning and where parents can go for lead screening, contact the Family Health Information Line at 1-800-942-7434 or visit our website at [www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov).

### **The Rhode Island Prevention Coalition**

The Department joined with private partners, including HMO's, health care providers and insurers and non-profit agencies to form the RI Prevention Coalition. Its overall goal is to improve the health of Rhode islanders; its current mission is to increase physical activity levels among sedentary Rhode Islanders. "Move it your way, move it any way, just move it!" is the theme of the "Move it! Rhode Island" campaign, which has made grants to community agencies since 1997 to increase physical activity levels among various populations. The "Path to Health" program is a major initiative of the Coalition, with the goal of creating signed, mapped walking routes in all cities and towns in the state. For more information, contact Ann Kelsey Thacher, 222-1394, x148.

### **Ocean State Adult Immunization Coalition**

The Ocean State Adult Immunization Coalition formed in 1996 by three lead agencies—The Department of Health, Rhode Island Quality Partners and Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island. The Coalition has grown to a membership of more than 40 organizations. The group's efforts focus on reducing medical complications and/or death of vaccine-preventable diseases in adults especially influenza (the flu) and pneumonia. The Coalition disseminates information about the importance of getting these vaccinations through medical provider initiatives, public education, targeted community initiatives and support of community resources. For more information, contact Annemarie Beardsworth at 222-3993 x 134.